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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the patent application. The Examiner has again rejected Claims 1-13 and 15-20 under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Hoffman, et al; and, Claim 14 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over the teachings of Hoffman in view of Draves. For the reasons set forth below, and based on the amendments presented herein, Applicants respectfully assert that all of the pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art.

The Hoffman patent is directed to a system and method for maintaining state data related to client requests at an otherwise stateless server. Hoffman discloses that a server defines a project object for a server application, either in response to a client request or in advance of any client requests, wherein the project object is available to all clients accessing the particular application on the server (Col. 4, lines 35-37). Once a client request has been received at the server and the state data has been created for that request, the server issues a request to the state manager (Col. 4, lines 42 and 48) to store the state

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information. The state manager increments an item count for its storage area/project object, creates a storage reference, or handle, based on the item count, and stores the state data in the object storage at the location referenced by the storage reference/handle. The handle is then passed with the page data being returned to the client browser as a variable in the URL, a cookie, or a hidden field (Col. 5, lines 22-23). Upon subsequent client requests, that handle will automatically be included in the client requests in accordance with known URL, cookie or hidden field processing. When the server receives the subsequent client request, it will have the handle for the state data and will then be able to use the state data to retrieve the next requested data for the next client request (Col. 5, lines 34-43).

The Hoffman patent is expressly directed to the maintenance of state data in a stateless server. The common applicable definition of "state" is defined at page 852 in The Random House Dictionary as the "condition with respect to circumstances, qualities...structure, form, etc." (Random House, New York, NY 1980); and, such ordinary and customary meaning is to be attributed to a patent term (Inverness

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Medical c. Princeton Biomeditech (Fed. Cir. 2002) and CCS Fitness v. Brunswick (Fed. Cir. 2002) in the absence of a contradictory definition put forth by the patentee. Moreover, the foregoing meaning for the term "state data" is very clear from a reading of the Hoffman patent. State data is clearly indicated as file and page information (Col. 1, line 35) and as information needed by a server to establish state before continuing (Col. 1, lines 57-60). There is no doubt that the only data which is being stored in Hoffman is state data which can be later retrieved to reestablish state for a subsequent client request.

The state data of Hoffman is not the "common data" which is taught and expressly claimed in the present application. The present invention explicitly describes common data as data that is transferred from a first source entity to a second entity with a request to store the common data at the second entity for subsequent processing of the common data by at least one of a plurality of different service applications at the second entity. The common data is distinct from invocation-specific data (see: bottom of page 7 and top of page 8 of the current Specification) and

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is also distinct from state data, which is information about the state of data that already resides at the second entity. State data in Hoffman merely represents a pointer to the state from the immediately preceding request by the client. It is not data to be stored at a second entity at the request of the first entity and it is not data on which a plurality of different service applications can be invoked. Applicants respectfully submit that retrieving stored state data for the sole purpose of reestablishing state (e.g., find the last page retrieved) is not the same as or suggestive of invoking processing on the common data by at least one service application.

In addition, the Hoffman stored data is state data for only that one project object for the one server application. The Hoffman state data is not relevant to any subsequent client request which involves a different application and necessarily a different project object (see: Col. 4, lines 35-37 and 52-55). In contrast, the common data of the present invention is continuously stored for use by any of a plurality of service applications at the second entity.

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Further, the common data of the present application is not updated with each client request, which is necessarily true of state data under the Hoffman method (see: Col. 5, lines 16-21). Under Hoffman, a new state is established with each new client request to the one server application and new state information is stored at the project object.

Finally, the common data of the present invention is transmitted from its source (i.e., the first entity or client) and is not created at the storage location (i.e., the second entity or server). The Hoffman state data is created at the server/storage location.

Applicants believe that the foregoing remarks definitively establish that the Hoffman state data is not the same as or suggestive of the common data which is transferred for storage and subsequent processing for the present invention. For a patent to anticipate another invention under 35 USC § 102(e), the patent must clearly teach each and every claimed feature of the anticipated invention. Since the Hoffman patent clearly does not teach the transferring of common data from a first source entity for storage at a second entity, does not teach storing

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common data as stored data at the second entity, does not teach associating a handle to stored common data where each entity is aware of the handle, does not teach invoking a service on the common data using the handle, it cannot be maintained that the Hoffman patent anticipates each and every claim feature recited in independent claims 1, 15 and 20. Further, a reference which does not anticipate an independent claim, cannot be said to anticipate a dependent claims which depends therefrom and adds limitations thereto. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the anticipation rejections of Claims 1-13 and 15-20.

With specific reference to the language of the independent claims, the present invention provides a method, system, and program storage device for data handling wherein the method comprises transferring common data from a source entity requesting storage of the common data for subsequent processing by at least one of a plurality of service applications at the second entity, storing the common data at the second entity, associating a data handle to the stored data, wherein the first and second entities are each aware of the handle, and invoking at least one service on

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the common data by making a request including the data handle to thereby invoke processing of the common data by at least one of the plurality of service applications. Clearly the claimed features of the present invention are neither taught nor suggested by the Hoffman patent. Applicants aver that the Hoffman patent in fact teaches away from the claimed invention by its requirement that state data be stored in only the one project object for only the one application, and that state data be stored for each client request related to that application.

With specific reference to the language of the dependent claims, Applicants respectfully assert that the Hoffman patent does not teach storing the data handle with stored common data (Claim 2). Rather, Hoffman only stores the state data and sends its page data to the client.

With regard to Claim 3 wherein said transferring and said invoking are done simultaneously and wherein said method further comprises invoking at least one successive service on said data by using said data handle after said storing and associating steps, Applicants reiterate that Hoffman does not invoke services on common data which has

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been stored at the second entity at the request of the first entity. Hoffman retrieves state data to reestablish state but that is neither the same as nor suggestive invoking processing on stored common data by at least one service application.

Regarding Claim 4, Hoffman does not teach or suggest that the first entity invokes at least one service by providing at least service invocation-specific data and the data handle to said second entity. The Hoffman client simply makes a new retrieval request, without being aware of the data handle. Moreover, the new request is not for invoking a service on stored common data, it is for accessing new data.

With regard to Claim 5, Hoffman does not teach that a first entity invokes a plurality of services on common data by transferring a composite service invocation to said second entity. Hoffman does not invoke services on common data, let alone generate a composite service invocation or of any service invocation on stored data.

As to Claim 6, Hoffman does not teach that the associating of the handle is conducted at a first entity and

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the handle transferred to the second entity. Rather, Hoffman teaches that the server requests storage of the state data, and creates the handle. Moreover, since Hoffman has a stateless server, Hoffman must have the server create the handle, since the client would not have any context for the project object or its storage locations. To attempt to modify Hoffman in a way that the client generates the handle would make the Hoffman system and method unworkable.

As to Claim 7, Hoffman does not anticipate the claim language wherein the associating of the handle is conducted at the second entity and wherein the handle is overtly communicated from the second to the first entity.

As to Claim 8, which recites that the associating of the handle is performed by a third entity and communicated to the first and second entity, the Hoffman patent makes no mention or suggestion of any third party creating a handle for state data, let alone for common data which is transferred from a first source entity to a second entity for storage and service.

With regard to Claim 9, wherein the associating of a handle is performed implicitly by the transfer of the data, Applicants respectfully assert that Hoffman does not teach

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that the handle is associated implicitly. The Hoffman handle is associated based on an explicit state request.

As to Claim 10, Hoffman does not teach a method further comprising transforming common data from a first representation to a second representation. While the cited Hoffman teachings do refer to the server dynamically formatting data for delivery to a client, such teachings do not anticipate or obviate the claimed transforming of common data in the context of the transferring, storing, and invoking of the present invention.

As to Claim 11, Applicants assert that Hoffman does not invoke a service on its state data. It simply accesses the state data and uses it to reestablish state in order to speed up its servicing of the client's next retrieval request.

As to Claim 12, the Hoffman encryption of client access data is not the same as nor suggestive of encrypting state data, and clearly does not anticipate the claim language wherein at least one service comprises encryption of stored data.

As to Claim 13, the Hoffman I/O is not performed on stored state data and is clearly not the same as nor

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suggestive of the claimed invention wherein said at least one service comprises file I/O by the second entity.

As to Claims 15-19, the Examiner has simply referred to the rejections of Claims 1-13. Applicants similarly rely on the above arguments with regard to Claims 1-13.

Finally, the Examiner has rejected Claim 14 based on a combination of Hoffman and Draves. Claim 14 recites that the second entity comprises a kernel and the service is provided by the second entity. While the Draves patent does teach that a kernel of an operating system maintains a resource table, the combination of Hoffman and Draves does not obviate the claimed invention. Draves does not teach the aspects which are missing from the Hoffman patent (i.e., the transferring of common data from a first source entity for storage at a second entity, associating a handle to the stored data where each entity is aware of the handle, invoking a service on the stored common data by processing by at least one service application using the handle). Further, simply combining Hoffman and Draves would result in a Hoffman system with a kernel of an operating system at the Hoffman server. It would not, however, result in a system wherein a service is provided by that kernel on stored data,

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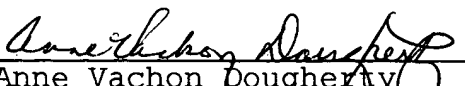
since neither Draves nor Hoffman transfers and stores the data on which a service is to be invoked, creates a handle for that data, and invokes services on stored data. Accordingly, Applicants conclude that the claim language is not obviated.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments, reconsideration of the claim language, withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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